GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:161
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2008
PEOPLE SUFFERING FROM MENTAL DISORDER
Jindal Shri Naveen;Nahata Smt. P. Jaya Prada

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether nearly seven crore people in the country are suffering from mental disorder as reported in The Hindustan Times dated 13 October, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) has conducted any study to ascertain the number of people suffering from mental disorder alongwith their status of treatment;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government to ensure comprehensive treatment to the mentally ill patients?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a)to(e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 161 FOR 10TH DECEMBER, 2008

According to a recent survey conducted by the National Institute of Mental Health & Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS), the prevalence of mental disorders in the country is about 7% of the population. Close to 3% of the population need active treatment. The figures from this last survey indicate that only 30% of the severely ill were receiving treatment and 30% had never been treated despite having severe mental disorder of varying period as long as a decade.

Around 30 lakhs patients, i.e., 10-20% of the severe mental disorders sometime in their life require hospitalization. However, the number of people requiring admission at any given time is difficult to predict as hospitalization is for a short period of time of not more than three weeks. Unlike in the past, effective medications have reduced the need for admission and facilitating patients to get back to their normal schedules fast. Apart from 43 Government (Central and State) Mental Health Institutes, Psychiatric Wings of all Medical Colleges and General Hospitals provide treatment facility for mentally ill patients.

Under National Mental Health Programme, efforts are made to provide mental health services as a part of general health system. In this regard, Central Government supplements the State Governments' efforts through District Mental Health Programme (DMHP), upgradation of Psychiatric Wings of Medical Colleges/General Hospitals and strengthening/modernisation of Mental hospitals to make them as therapeutic units. Government of India has provided funds for 123 districts under DMHP, upgradation of 84 Medical Colleges/General Hospitals and modernisation of 27 Mental Hospitals.

The Government has proposed to restrategise the National Mental Health Programme during the 11th Five Year Plan to extend DMHP to more districts in the country with added components of suicide prevention services, work place stress management, life skills training and counselling in schools and colleges. To address the acute shortage of qualified mental health professionals in the country, manpower development schemes under the National Mental Health Programme for setting up of centres of excellence in mental health and PG training departments in mental health specialities are under active consideration.